

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION
U.S. Serial No.: 09/783,354
Title: Orthogonally Ambiguous Carpet Tile

Claims as pending:

1. (Currently Amended) Carpet tiles comprising textile faces ~~having patterns, wherein, when the tiles are assembled on a flooring surface so that each tile is adjacent to and abuts at least one other tile, the textile faces~~ that exhibit orthogonal ambiguity without pattern alignment between adjacent tiles.
2. (Previously presented) The carpet tiles of claim 1, wherein the tiles have tufted faces.
3. (Previously presented) The carpet tiles of claim 1, wherein the tiles have woven faces.
4. (Previously presented) The carpet tiles of claim 1, wherein the tiles have fusion bonded faces.
5. (Previously presented) The carpet tiles of claim 1, wherein each tile has a pattern comprising a background color and a first color different from the background color.
6. (Previously presented) The carpet tiles of claim 5, wherein the background color and the first color have similar intensities.

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7. (Previously presented) The carpet tiles of claim 5, wherein the pattern comprises shapes, at least one of which shapes is formed by at least one straight line.
8. (Previously presented) The carpet tiles of claim 7, wherein adjacent shapes comprise at least one common color.
9. (Previously presented) The carpet tiles of claim 7, wherein the at least one straight line is oriented parallel to a carpet tile edge.
10. (Previously presented) The carpet tiles of claim 7, wherein at least one shape comprises only the background color.
11. (Previously presented) The carpet tiles of claim 7, wherein a least one shape comprises the background color and the first color.
12. (Previously presented) The carpet tiles of claim 7, wherein the pattern further comprises a second color different from the background color and the first color.
13. (Previously presented) The carpet tiles of claim 12, wherein the background color, the first color, and the second color have similar intensities.
14. (Previously presented) The carpet tiles of claim 12, wherein at least one shape comprises only the background color and the second color.

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15. (Previously presented) The carpet tiles of claim 12, wherein at least one shape comprises the background color, the first color, and the second color.
16. (Previously presented) The carpet tiles of claim 12, wherein the pattern further comprises a third color different from the background color, the first color, and the second color.
17. (Previously presented) The carpet tiles of claim 16, wherein the background color, the first color, the second color, and the third color have similar intensities.
18. (Previously presented) The carpet tiles of claim 16, wherein at least one shape comprises only the background color and the third color.
19. (Previously presented) The carpet tiles of claim 16, wherein at least one shape comprises only the background color, the second color, and the third color.
20. (Cancelled)
21. (Previously presented) Floorcovering comprising at least two carpet tiles of claim 1 positioned side-by-side.
22. (Previously presented) Floorcovering comprising at least two carpet tiles of claim 1 positioned side-by-side wherein each tile comprises a pattern formed by a background color

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and at least two colors different from the background color, wherein the background color and at least one of the at least two colors different from the background color are the same for the at least two orthogonally ambiguous carpet tiles.

23. (Previously presented) The floorcovering of claim 22, wherein the pattern on each of the at least two carpet tiles comprises shapes, at least one shape on each of the at least two orthogonally ambiguous carpet tiles having a straight side.

24. (Previously presented) The floorcovering of claim 23, wherein adjacent shapes on each of the at least two carpet tiles comprise at least one common color.

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[claims 25 and 26 (cancelled)]

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27. (Previously presented) The carpet tiles of claim 1, wherein the tiles are square.

28. (Previously presented) The carpet tiles of claim 1, wherein each tile comprises tile edges and each tile face comprises a pattern with at least one rectangular shape.

29. (Previously presented) The carpet tiles of claim 28, wherein the at least one rectangular shape comprises a shape edge parallel to at least one edge of the tile on which the at least one rectangular shape appears.

30. (Previously presented) The carpet tiles of claim 29, wherein the at least one rectangular shape comprises shape edges parallel to a first pair of opposed edges of the tile on

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which the at least one rectangular shape appears and shape edges parallel to a second pair of opposed edges of the tile on which the at least one rectangular shape appears.

[Claims 31 – 39 (Cancelled)]

40. (Previously presented) A method of producing the floorcovering of claim 21 comprising forming carpet tiles having textile faces exhibiting orthogonal ambiguity and positioning the carpet tiles side-by-side on a flooring surface in any side-by-side or rotational orientation relative to each other.

41. (Previously presented) A method of producing the carpet tiles of claim 1 comprising forming carpet tiles having an orthogonally ambiguous pattern that does not require pattern alignment between adjacent tiles.

42. (Previously presented) The method of claim 41, wherein the carpet tiles are formed by designing a pattern for a carpet web, producing the carpet web with the pattern, and cutting the carpet web into the tiles.

43. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the pattern for the carpet web is designed by:

- a. selecting a background color for the carpet web;
- b. using a plurality of colors, including the background color, to form shapes on the carpet web; and

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c. designing and positioning the shapes on the carpet web so that at least one shape has at least one straight side parallel to an edge of the carpet web and adjacent shapes have at least one common color.

44. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the carpet web is produced using a tufting machine.

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 41, wherein the carpet tiles are formed by printing the pattern on the tiles.

46. (Cancelled)

47. (Previously presented) An assembly of side-by-side carpet tiles of claim 1, each of which tiles has a textile face comprising a pattern not identical to any other tile of the assembly, the patterns having shapes and colors rendering the appearance of the tiles continuous across the assembly so that no tile looks out of place or out of position in any place or position in the assembly.

48. (Cancelled)

49. (New) Carpet tiles comprising textile faces having pattern shapes that exhibit orthogonal ambiguity with partitioned pattern shapes.

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50. (New) Carpet tiles comprising textile faces that exhibit orthogonal ambiguity.
51. (New) The orthogonally ambiguous carpet tiles of claim 50, wherein the tiles have tufted faces.
52. (New) The orthogonally ambiguous carpet tiles of claim 50, wherein the tiles have woven faces.
53. (New) The orthogonally ambiguous carpet tiles of claim 50, wherein the tiles have fusion bonded faces.
54. (New) The carpet tiles of claim 50, wherein the tiles are square.
55. (New) The carpet tiles of claim 50, wherein each tile comprises tile edges and each tile face comprises a pattern with at least one rectangular shape.
56. (New) The carpet tiles of claim 55, wherein the at least one rectangular shape comprises a shape edge parallel to at least one edge of the tile on which the at least one rectangular shape appears.
57. (New) The carpet tiles of claim 56, wherein the at least one rectangular shape comprises shape edges parallel to a first pair of opposed edges of the tile on which the at least one rectangular shape appears and shape edges parallel to a second pair of opposed edges of the tile on which the at least one rectangular shape appears.

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58. (New) The carpet tiles of claim 50, wherein the faces comprise a pattern formed from at least two colors.
59. (New) Orthogonally ambiguous carpet tiles, wherein each tile has a pattern comprising a background color and a first color different from the background color.
60. (New) The carpet tiles of claim 59, wherein the background color and the first color have similar intensities.
61. (New) The carpet tiles of claim 59, wherein the pattern comprises shapes, at least one of which shapes is formed by at least one straight line.
62. (New) The carpet tiles of claim 61, wherein adjacent shapes comprise at least one common color.
63. (New) The carpet tiles of claim 61, wherein the at least one straight line is oriented parallel to a carpet tile edge.
64. (New) The carpet tiles of claim 61, wherein at least one shape comprises only the background color.
65. (New) The carpet tiles of claim 61, wherein a least one shape comprises the background color and the first color.

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66. (New) The carpet tiles of claim 61, wherein the pattern further comprises a second color different from the background color and the first color.

67. (New) The carpet tiles of claim 66, wherein the background color, the first color, and the second color have similar intensities.

68. (New) The carpet tiles of claim 66, wherein at least one shape comprises only the background color and the second color.

69. (New) The carpet tiles of claim 66, wherein at least one shape comprises the background color, the first color, and the second color.

70. (New) The carpet tiles of claim 66, wherein the pattern further comprises a third color different from the background color, the first color, and the second color.

71. (New) The carpet tiles of claim 70, wherein the background color, the first color, the second color, and the third color have similar intensities.

72. (New) The carpet tiles of claim 70, wherein at least one shape comprises only the background color and the third color.

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73. (New) The carpet tiles of claim 70, wherein at least one shape comprises only the background color, the second color, and the third color.

74. (New) Orthogonally ambiguous carpet tiles comprising a pattern of shapes, at least one of which shapes on each tile is formed by a straight line oriented parallel to an edge of the carpet tile on which the at least one shape appears, wherein the shapes are further formed from at least one of a plurality of colors comprising at least a background color, a first color, and a second color, wherein at least one of the shapes on each tile is formed from the background color only, at least one of the shapes on each tile is formed from the background color and the first color only, at least one of the shapes on each tile is formed from the background color and the second color only, and at least one of the shapes on each tile is formed from the background color, the first color, and the second color, wherein the background color, the first color, and the second color have similar intensities and wherein adjacent shapes on the tiles comprise at least one common color.

75. (New) Floorcovering comprising at least two orthogonally ambiguous carpet tiles positioned side-by-side.

76. (New) Floorcovering comprising at least two orthogonally ambiguous carpet tiles positioned side-by-side wherein each tile comprises a pattern formed by a background color and at least two colors different from the background color, wherein the background color and at least one of the at least two colors different from the background color are the same for the at least two orthogonally ambiguous carpet tiles.

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77. (New) The floorcovering of claim 76, wherein the pattern on each of the at least two orthogonally ambiguous carpet tiles comprises shapes, at least one shape on each of the at least two orthogonally ambiguous carpet tiles having a straight side.

78. (New) The floorcovering of claim 77, wherein adjacent shapes on each of the at least two orthogonally ambiguous carpet tiles comprise at least one common color.

79. (New) A carpet web having a width and a length and comprising a textile face having a pattern comprising a plurality of shapes formed by a plurality of colors, wherein at least some adjacent shapes on the web comprise a common color and none of the shapes extends the full length or width of the web, wherein the web is separable into carpet tiles so that the tiles cut from the web all comprise a common color and at least a portion of at least some of the plurality of shapes appear on each carpet tile cut from the web, each of which shapes having an edge that parallels at least one edge of the carpet tile on which it appears.

80. (New) The web of claim 79, wherein the face is tufted and the plurality of colors comprises a first color and a second color, wherein at least some of the plurality of shapes are formed by yarn tufts of the first color and the second color, at least some of the yarn tufts of the first color having a height greater than at least some of the yarn tufts of the second color proximate the tufts of the first color.

81. (New) The web of claim 79, wherein at least some of the plurality of shapes are rectangular shapes.

82. (New) A carpet tile cut from the web of claim 79.

83. (New) The carpet tile of claim 82, wherein the tile is square.

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84. (New) The carpet tile of claim 82, wherein at least some of the plurality of shapes appearing on the carpet tile comprise straight edges, and wherein at least one of the straight edges of each shape parallels a first pair of opposed edges of the carpet tile on which the shape appears and at least one of the straight edges of each shape parallels a second pair of opposed edges of the carpet tile on which the shape appears.

85. (New) Floorcovering comprising a plurality of carpet tiles cut from the web of claim 79 and positioned on a flooring surface.

86. (New) The floorcovering of claim 85, wherein the plurality of tiles can be positioned side-by-side on the flooring surface in any side-by-side or rotational orientation relative to each other without the locations at which adjacent tiles abut being visually prominent.

87. (New) A method of producing the floorcovering of claim 75 comprising forming carpet tiles having textile faces exhibiting orthogonal ambiguity and positioning the carpet tiles side-by-side on a flooring surface in any side-by-side or rotational orientation relative to each other.

88. (New) A method of producing the carpet tiles of claim 50 comprising forming carpet tiles having an orthogonally ambiguous pattern.

89. (New) The method of claim 88, wherein the carpet tiles are formed by designing a pattern for a carpet web, producing the carpet web with the pattern, and cutting the carpet web into the tiles.

90. (New) The method of claim 89, wherein the pattern for the carpet web is designed by:

- a. selecting a background color for the carpet web;
- b. using a plurality of colors, including the background color, to form shapes on the carpet web; and

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c. designing and positioning the shapes on the carpet web so that at least one shape has at least one straight side parallel to an edge of the carpet web and adjacent shapes have at least one common color.

91. (New) The method of claim 89, wherein the carpet web is produced using a tufting machine.

92. (New) The method of claim 88, wherein the carpet tiles are formed by printing the pattern on the tiles.

93. (New) An assembly of carpet tiles having an appearance of continuity in which no tile looks out of place, each of the tiles having a textile face comprising means for rendering the position and orientation of the tiles irrelevant to the appearance of continuity across the assembly of tiles.

94. (New) An assembly of side-by-side carpet tiles, each of which tile has a textile face comprising a pattern not identical to any other tile of the assembly, the patterns having shapes and colors rendering the appearance of the tiles continuous across the assembly so that no tile looks out of place or out of position in any place or position in the assembly.

95. (New) An assembly of carpet tiles presenting a continuous appearance, wherein each tile is rotationally oriented in the assembly and wherein the rotational orientation of at least one tile may be altered without disrupting the appearance of continuity.